CLAIMS

1.   A method comprising:

creating a template class that stores at least one template parameter;

specifying at least one additional object to be created when an instance of the template class is created;

initiating the creation of a new instance of the template class using the at least one template parameter; and

if an error occurs during the creation of the new instance of the template class, receiving a report identifying the error.

2.   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein initiating the creation of a new instance of the template class includes associating the new instance of the template class with the at least one additional object.

3.   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each instance of the template class is capable of handling event data.

4.   A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising offering the template class to a plurality of users.

5.   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the template class is a correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation scenario.

6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein the correlation helper template includes at least one parameter to be defined by a user initiating the creation of a new instance of the template class.

7. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

8. A method comprising:

creating a first template class;

designating inputs associated with the first template class;

designating outputs associated with the first template class;

creating a second template class;

designating inputs associated with the second template class;

designating outputs associated with the second template class; and

creating a third template class by combining the first template class and the second template class.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the first template class has an associated object that is created when an instance of the first template class is created.

10.   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the second template class has at least one associated object that is created when an instance of the second template class is created.

11.   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the third template class has a plurality of associated objects that are created when an instance of the third template class is created.

12.   A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising creating a new instance of the third template class.

13.   A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising:

creating a new instance of the third template class; and

if an error occurs during the creation of the new instance of the third template class, reporting the details of the error.

14.   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the first template class is a correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation scenario.

15.   A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the second template class is a correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation scenario.

16.   One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 8.

17.   A template description structure comprising:

at least one template class that stores a plurality of template parameters;

at least one template builder class that identifies at least one additional object to be created with each instance of the template class; and

at least one order parameter that identifies the order in which the template builder classes are instantiated.

18.   A template description structure as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one template class is a correlation helper template that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation scenario.

19.   A template description structure as recited in claim 17 wherein each instance of the template builder class has an associated name.

20.   A template description structure as recited in claim 17 wherein each template builder instance is associated with an instance of a template class.

21. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a template description structure, the template description structure comprising:

at least one template class that parameterizes a particular aspect of a correlation scenario;

at least one template builder class, wherein each instance of the template builder class identifies an object that needs to be created when creating an instance of the template class; and

at least one order parameter that identifies the order in which the template builder classes are instantiated.

22. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 21 wherein each instance of the template builder class has an associated name.